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unsurpassed there are none better, but few equals.

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Start The Year Right.

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ROSS, HIGGINS & Co.
THE LEADING GROCERS

THREE TALES OF THE TOWN

Schools Open.—This morning the public schools of this city open again for the new year after a two weeks' holiday vacation.

Sells Out.—W. B. Seibert has sold out his interest in the blacksmith's shop to his former partner, C. W. Holmes, who will hereafter conduct the business alone.

Child Dies.—Florence Goodman, the four-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Goodman of Seaside, died at home on Monday, January 1st, of inflammation of the stomach. The body will be buried in Clatsop cemetery.

New Position.—W. R. Dickey, has been appointed as assistant keeper of the Cape Mears lighthouse, and will assume his new position in a short time. Dickey was formerly a member of Cape Disappointment Life Saving

Chimney Blaze.—Yesterday noon the chimney in the laundry department of St. Mary's hospital burned out, and alarm was turned into the fire department, which responded. The blaze, however, proved to be easily extinguished and did no damage.

Work Day and Night.—The Clatsop Mill Company will probably put on a double crew and run both night and day to keep up their orders. The machinery is about all placed in and the

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YOU
A
HAPPY
AND
PROSPEROUS
NEW
YEAR**

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For the Best See Us.

**ARE UNRECOGNIZED**

**Police Commission Refuse Welch
and Hansen Seats.**

MAY BE DECIDED IN COURT

**Situation Decidedly Muddled and Grows
Interesting—Judge Anderson Dis-
poses of Number Police Court Cases—
Dealy Recovering from Illness.**

At 10 o'clock yesterday morning the police commission muddle took on its first, and unavoidable, expression. The board met at the City Hall with five alleged commissioners present, to wit: Judge Chas. H. Page, Martin Foard, T. F. Laurin, Jens H. Hansen, and D. H. Welch.

It has been supposed that the people had chosen three new commissioners at the recent city election, but the procedure under which this was done was ambiguous enough to warrant the insistence, upon the part of the old commissioners, Judge Page and Mr. Foard, upon holding their prerogatives, until the further expression of the circuit court could be had upon the questions at issue, and with this determination in view, and very plainly expressed by both gentlemen, the convention resolved into a mix-up which was, temporarily, straightened out, by the declaration aforesaid, the retirement of Commissioner Gordon, whose term had actually expired, and the swearing in of Mr. Laurin, a condition of affairs that will hold until a ruling can be had in final determination.

Messrs. Hansen and Welch were there armed with their certificates of election and their oaths of office, all of which proved unavailable, as they were not recognized by the majority, a prerequisite that is absolutely essential in matters of this sort, where there is no other and immediate source of appeal. The matter came to a head after the organization of the new board and after Mr. Laurin had been slated. It arose upon a motion to deny the right of recognition to Hansen and Welch, which was promptly supported by Messrs. Page and Board and negatived by Mr. Laurin.

Thus it stands, and thus it will remain, until Messrs. Hansen and Welch shall take an appeal to the upper courts, and perhaps, then some. Just what these gentlemen intend to do cannot be ascertained. They will take time to count the cost, probably, but whether they will forgo the honors in view of the trouble and expense involved, is something time alone shall determine. It is wholly up to them, now.

For a man to have but one leg, and to be compelled to use crutches, is ordinarily supposed to be hard luck enough, but when in addition to all this such a person is arrested by the unfeeling police and charged in court with having no visible means of support, his misfortune is about the limit of man's woes. Yet all these troubles happened to a delapidated individual by the name of M. C. Poyer, who sat in the prisoner's box in the city police court yesterday and listened to the judge impose the additional punishment of a \$20 fine. This last was more than the poor man could bear, and with tears streaming down his unshaven and unwashed cheeks, he begged the judge to have mercy.

"Please sir," said the prisoner, "I have no money and if you will only let me go, I will leave town at once." At this sign of repentance Judge Anderson relented, and suspended the execution of the sentence, until Poyer could get out of town. The man was charged with being a vagrant and was found begging from house to house, for money, which he stated he was collecting for the purchase of a leg.

Bert Hibbs and Ingval Sally for celebrating the incoming of the new year too strenuously, fell into the iron hand of the police and contributed ten and five dollars, respectively to the support of the city, for their fun.

J. Child after spending two days in the shadow of the bars, for being drunk, was released by the police yesterday afternoon on the order of Judge Anderson.

City Treasurer Dealey, who has been ill for the past week, will again be in his office for the transaction of business today.

The rush has now begun in the water office and yesterday a line of people anxious to pay their monthly water rent, could be seen in the office awaiting their turn. Every one is willing to pay their rent before the tenth of

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Every article in the house reduced.

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the month and thus escape the fine imposed for non-payment.

**Cooper's Annual Clearance Sale Now
Going On. Don't Miss It.**

BETTER ENTERTAINMENT.

**Fisher's Opera House Now on North
Western Circuit.**

For the next twenty months, at least, the theater-going public of Astoria is to have the best of all the "passing shows" on the Pacific northwest. Yesterday Manager T. E. Selig signed up a contract, for that period, placing his cozy little theater on record as a full member of the Northwest Theatrical Association, of Seattle, which organization controls the cream of the cream troupes and repertoires that visit this coast, all of which will be billed here in due course.

This move may have a tendency to advance the price of seats at Fisher's, but the average, cultured Astorian will care but little for this, when he realizes he is to get his money's worth every time he engages admission there. As an instance of the grade of plays and players it may be said that the first production here, under the new arrangement provides for the best of the Rosciana Opera Company's work, on February 5th (and perhaps, the 6th), and the next date now filled, April 18th, calls for Florence Roberts and her splendid company.

Thus it will be seen that Manager Selig is but catering to the genuine, artistic taste of his clientele in connecting himself with the famous circuit. His new lines of entertainment will undoubtedly be fully appreciated.

**Cooper's Annual Clearance Sale Now
Going On. Don't Miss It.**

How to Prevent Bilious Attacks.

One who is subject to bilious attacks will notice that for a day or more before the attack he is not hungry at meal times and feels dull after eating. A dose of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets when these first symptoms appear will ward off the attack. They are for sale by Frank Hart and leading druggists.

YOUR NEXT.

Never have to wait long at the Occident Barber Shop. A. E. Peterson proprietor.

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N. A. Ackerman, 421 Bond St., does all manner of taxidermy, furniture upholstery, carpet cleaning and laying, mat tress making a specialty and all work guaranteed.

Wood! Wood! Wood! Wood! Wood!
For choice dry box-wood, telephone 2064 Black, or leave orders at the Astoria Grocery. O. Nelson, "The Wood Man."

**Cooper's Annual Clearance Sale Now
Going On. Don't Miss It.**

THE PIANO DANCE.

Any phase of hunger can be daintily gratified at any hour of the day or night at the Palace Restaurant. The kitchen and dining room service are of the positive best. Private dining rooms for ladies. One call inspires regular custom. Try it. Commercial street, opposite Page building.

Wednesday evening, January 3rd, the long expected ball and piano contest will take place at Logan's Hall.

Mr. Wise is mailing invitations to all of his customers who hold numbers. No one will be admitted without this invitation and invitations are not transferable.

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